

Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 301655Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8609

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PPDC, BC

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER ON BOTSWANA INDEPENDENCE

1. THERE FOLLOWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION THE EMBASSY'S DRAFT OF A CONGRATULATORY LETTER FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO SIR SERETSE KHAMA, PRESIDENT OF BOTSWANA, ON THE OCCASION OF BOTSWANA'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE. BOTSWANA'S NATIONAL DAY (BOTSWANA DAY) IS SEPTEMBER 30. HOWEVER, INASMUCH AS THE INDEPENDENCE FESTIVITIES BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 26, THE EMBASSY REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE WELL BEFORE THAT DATE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR; PRESIDENT: ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, I WISH TO CONGRATULATE THE PEOPLE OF BOTSWANA ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA. A TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IS ALWAYS A SPECIAL OCCASION. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE IN THE CASE OF BOTSWANA. YOUR ANNIVERSARY MARKS THE SUCCESS AND CONTINUATION OF A NATION FIRMLY PRACTICING THE PRINCIPLES OF RACIAL EQUALITY, INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM, INDEPENDENCE AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS. IN AN ERA WHEN THESE PRINCIPLES ARE UNDER FREQUENT ATTACK AND TOO OFTEN COMPROMISED, BOTSWANA IS A BRIGHT EXAMPLE OF A NATION'S COURAGEOUS ADHERENCE TO WHAT IS RIGHT.

ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE, THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZES THIS WORLD CONTRIBUTION BY BOTSWANA, PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE DETERMINATION OF BOTSWANA'S PEOPLE AND LEADERS TO CONTINUE

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THEIR GOOD WORK, AND PLEDGES ITS MATERIAL AND MORAL SUPPORT FOR

THEIR EFFORTS.

3. NOTE: EMBASSY WOULD UNDERLINE PHRASE "RACIAL EQUALITY,
INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM, INDEPENDENCE AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS."
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